

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus, comprising:
a plurality of periodic replacement parts each including a storage medium that stores information on the replacement part therein; and

a main body of said image forming apparatus to which said periodic replacement part is detachably mounted and including a single communication portion;

wherein said main body reads the information stored in said storage medium through said single communication portion using a radio wave.

2. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said communication portion uses a radio wave having a predetermined wavelength.

3. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage medium of said replacement part has an unused memory region to be writable with information transmitted from said main body side through said communication portion.

4. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage medium of said replacement part includes a rewritable region and an un-rewritable region.

5. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the memory region of said storage medium of said replacement part allows only writing and reading.

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6. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein information originally stored in the memory region of said storage medium of said replacement part is neither rewritable nor erasable.

7. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage medium of said replacement part holds internal information in a coded form according to a prescribed coding method.

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8. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the information stored in said storage medium of said replacement part is used to control the operation of said main body, and the operation of said main body is changed depending upon the kind of said replacement part.

9. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said communication portion of said main body is integrally provided to a circuit board previously provided at said main body.

10. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said image forming apparatus has multiple replacement parts within a range to allow the communication portion to transmit/receive a radio wave to/from them, and the storage media of at least two replacement parts are communicable with one communication portion on the apparatus main body side.

10 ~~11~~. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a moving device that moves said communication portion of said main body to a position communicable with said storage medium of said replacement part.

11 ~~12~~. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a moving device that moves said replacement parts to a position where said storage medium of said replacement part can communicate with said communication portion of said main body side.

12 ~~13~~. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said communication portion of said apparatus main body side has a communicable range which is set within the outer size of said main body.

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Art 14. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a control portion notifying an operator of the detection if said communication portion of said main body detects a larger number of storage media than the number of replacement parts mountable to said image forming apparatus.

15. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein if said communication portion of said main body detects a larger number of storage media than the number of replacement parts mountable to said image forming apparatus, information in said storage media is not

Sub 15 reflected on the control of said main body.

16. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage medium of said replacement part is provided to said replacement part integrally with a label attached to said replacement part.

17. A periodic replacement part detachably mounted to an image forming apparatus, said replacement part comprising:

Sub 15 a storage medium that stores information on said replacement part, and the information stored in said storage medium can be read on said main body by a communication portion communicating through a radio wave.

18. The replacement part according to claim 17, further comprising a moving device that movably mounts said replacement part to said image forming apparatus, and moves said replacement part to a position where the storage medium of said replacement part can communicate with said communication portion of said main body side.

19. The replacement part according to claim 17, wherein information stored in the storage medium of said replacement part is used for controlling the operation of said image forming apparatus, and the operation of said image forming apparatus is changed based on the kind of the replacement part.